

ARGUMENTS MADE

Why the Reciprocity Treaty Should Continue.

The Situation as Viewed Through Other Eyes—a San Francisco Plea.

The San Francisco Financial Letter advances the following argument in support of the reciprocity treaty:

The report of the Hon. S. M. Damon, the Hawaiian Minister of Finance, published in our last issue, has no doubt been read with interest by those of our commercial and financial circles engaged in the trade between the coast and the islands. Following upon the subject, it may be well to analyze the points that those who favor the abrogation of the treaty have made in their arguments.

From the data that has been learned upon the question, the contentions used are so specious and utterly at variance with the actual state of affairs, in connection with the operations of the reciprocity treaty as to excite attention and prove that those who favor the abrogation have either been willfully misled by persons supplying the information, or that they could not have consulted statistics bearing upon the subject.

They claim "that when the treaty was first adopted the carrying trade was encouraged and many American bottoms engaged in it. At present the great proportion of the Hawaiian sugar crop is carried direct to New York by sailing vessels built in England, and in many cases by vessels flying the English flag, though recently a number have been given Hawaiian registers. This, the opponents of the reciprocity treaty assert, gives to the trust all the advantage of free sugar, inasmuch as the Hawaiian crop figures as an item in the raw supply."

It will require very little effort on our part to show how utterly absurd, and how far from the truth, are these statements.

Since the reciprocity treaty with Hawaii was put in force some twenty years ago, the sums invested in sugar and coffee plantations, in banks, water and electric light works, and a number of other commercial enterprises in the islands, amount to many millions of dollars, and these sums have been invested in the main by citizens of the State of California.

THE CARRYING FLEET.

The building of vessels suitable for the traffic between the islands and the Pacific coast has progressed as the trade expanded, until today we find as fine a fleet of ships of their class as are owned by any nation in the world. Had it not been for the existence of the Reciprocity treaty these vessels would not have been adrift, and the money earned by shipwrights and builders for their construction would have been diverted into other channels far less productive, and a body of men now employed as sailors on these vessels would have been obliged to seek employment elsewhere.

The natural laws that govern all commercial matters have caused the carriage of a large quantity of sugar produced on the islands to Atlantic ports during the past year or two. It is stated that this sugar has been carried in vessels built in England, carrying the British flag, and also upon vessels under the Hawaiian ensign. During the past season at least 90 per cent of the vessels that took sugar from the islands to Atlantic ports were American owned. For the present season eight American ships and three foreign ships are loaded and loading. One of these ships is owned by residents of the islands, but flies the German flag, the others being British. It is perfectly true that a number of vessels are built in England and other European countries and sail under the Hawaiian flag, but perhaps it is not known that fifteen-sixteenths of these vessels are owned by citizens of the United States. They were obliged to invest their money in these ships and place them under the Hawaiian flag because these were some opponents of the treaty, and their friends, would not allow vessels to be built in foreign yards, for those Americans who did not wish to be made to pay double the cost of coast action in the ship yards of this country, and who rather than place these vessels under the flag of some small Central American republic chose that of a nation allied to this country by the closest ties and relations.

The product of these islands, first rate sugar, produced by the investment of capital supplied by citizens of the United States, is transported to Atlantic ports upon American owned vessels when available, sold to American citizens for the purpose of refining, enters into competition with the millions of tons of beet sugar dumped into the United States from German and French factories, but in no wise competes with the cane sugar produced in the Southern States of the Union; and these offenses constitute reasons why, in the opinion of the opponents of the reciprocity treaty, the same should be abrogated.

Considering the point that the continuance of the treaty will be inimical to the beet sugar interest of the United States, it is well known that the refineries of beet sugars are at the present time in course of erection at Salinas, in Los Angeles county, and in both Western and Eastern States, establishments that will cost many millions of dollars, and if the owners of these large refineries had the least fear that the Hawaiian sugar would interfere with their business, it is very safe to assert that the expenditure would never have been made.

The stern and well known fact is that even if there was a large increase of beet sugar factories in the United States producing sugar, and the Hawaiian Islands produced a greater out-

put of cane sugar than at present, the quantity would not suffice to supply the needs and demands of the people of this Republic. In fact the total production of the beet sugar in the United States and cane sugars from Hawaii would not supply within eight per cent of the consumption.

SUGAR IMPORTATIONS.

In order to arrive at some idea of the amount of sugar imported into Atlantic coast ports from January to November, 1896, the following figures will be of interest: From Europe, principally beet sugar, 469,743 tons; Java, Cuba, West Indies, Brazil, Philippine Islands, Egypt and other foreign countries, 992,872; total, 1,462,615 tons as against an importation from Hawaii of 43,685 tons into Atlantic ports. San Francisco received from Hawaii during January to December, 1896, 180,000 tons, consumed on the Pacific coast and in the Western States. It is estimated by well informed persons that the total production of beet sugar in the United States for the present year will be 40,000 tons, the yearly increase since 1890 having been 10,000 tons, and even with an increase of 20,000 tons yearly, due to the erection and operation of new refineries, many years will elapse before these establishments would be in position to supply the needs of our increasing population with the increasing yearly consumption.

Seeing that a vast amount of capital has been invested in the sugar plantations of the Hawaiian Islands by American citizens, as well as the almost exclusive trade which we now hold with the Hawaiian Republic, to the actual benefit of our manufacturers and producers, it seems that all efforts should be made not only to foster those advantages, but to make concerted efforts that will by combining both the Hawaiian and beet sugar interests create the capital of our citizens invested in both these enterprises to earn profits, rather than abrogate a treaty that now operates advantageously.

As an example that the cane and other classes of sugar produces in the United States could not under the most favorable conditions produce in any wise an amount sufficient to supply the needs of our people, it may be stated that for the year 1896 there was consumed 243,220 tons of domestic cane sugar, 40,000 tons of beet sugar, 300 tons of sorghum sugar, 5,000 tons of maple sugar, 603 tons of molasses sugar—making a total of 289,123 tons from domestic sources.

The importation from foreign countries during 1896, that passed into consumption, was 1,570,963 tons, and of this amount only 200,000 tons came from the Hawaiian plantations, and even this quantity is a maximum yield.

The quantity of beet sugars of European origin included in these totals was 415,870 tons.

Figures of undoubted accuracy show that we have to depend for our supplies upon foreign producers, and that as the consumption of sugar is increasing yearly per capita, it seems reasonable that we should aid and foster by any and all means those enterprises in which our own people have made investments, not only in the Hawaiian Islands, but also in our own country, to the exclusion of foreign interests.

The merchants and manufacturers of the Pacific coast are deeply interested in the future trade of the Hawaiian Islands, and while anxious to aid and sustain any project that will tend to develop the beet sugar industry, they cannot be oblivious that any attempt to abrogate the reciprocity treaty with the Hawaiian Republic would mean a loss of a very large percentage of the exclusive trade now enjoyed by American citizens who have invested in the Hawaiian Islands capital that exceeds ten fold that placed in beet sugar producing plants.

MORE OF THE JAP

Kinai Maru, With 680 From Japan.

Investigation Begins Today—Supposed to be Free Laborers.

The Japanese steamer Kinai Maru, Sakata master, arrived from Japan yesterday. Dr. Day boarded the vessel and found her in good sanitary condition, and as it was 20 days since she left her last port, she was clear of the quarantine regulations. Port Surveyor Stratmeyer boarded her and found 680 steerage and two cabin passengers. Her clearance papers were right, but the purser had neglected to put on his manifest the number of the passport opposite the name of the passenger. This is an imperative rule of the Custom House, and Mr. Stratmeyer refused to investigate the cases of the immigrants until the purser had made the entries on the manifest.

The 680 immigrants are 540 males, 122 females and 18 children. They are consigned to the Kobe Immigration Company, and are believed to be of the "student class." From one of the immigration agents it was learned that the Japanese Government will decline to encourage any more contract laborers coming here, but will advise the free laborers to come. He stated, also, that the tendency of the plantation managers is to reduce wages. For that reason the Japanese Government prefers to let the students come over and take chances.

The investigation of this lot of Japanese will begin today at 9 o'clock. Minister Cooper, Collector General Castle, Interpreter Doyle, Surveyor Stratmeyer, Stenographer Marx and Secretaries Mackintosh and Hapal will be present until the work is complete. It is believed there will be no night sessions.

THE INTERVIEW

Mr. Thurston Replies to Mr. Stevens.

He Declares He Was Not in Error in His Former Statements to the Press.

The Washington Star of a recent issue says: Mr. Lorrin A. Thurston, ex-Minister from Hawaii, and now the president of the Association Club of Honolulu, said to a Star reporter this morning: "I see that the statements I made in the course of an interview published in the Star last Friday, have been questioned by Mr. D. Stevens, the counsel for the Japanese Legation, who claims that I am in error both in my facts and in my conclusions. The interview had reference to the reported refusal of the Hawaiian Government to allow 327 Japanese immigrants to land in Honolulu. 'The facts which I stated,' continued Mr. Thurston, 'were, in substance, that by treaty all Japanese have the right of ingress into Hawaii. My authority for such statement is article 2 of the Hawaiian-Japanese treaty, dated August 19, 1871, page 116 of Hawaiian treaties, which gives free right of ingress to Hawaii. This treaty is still in force and is entirely distinct from the 'labor convention,' which Mr. Stevens says is inoperative on a yacht. 'The convention' is now a dead letter, no immigrants coming under its terms."

A CHANGE OF POLICY. "Second, I stated that formerly the Japanese Government only allowed Japanese to come to Hawaii under contract, by which the companies had the control and supervision of the Hawaiian Government, but that recently it had changed its policy and allowed free ingress to Hawaii, which was being actively promoted by a number of Japanese immigration companies, who were pouring Japanese into the country without any check on the part of the Government as to what became of them. In making this statement I stated that from 1881 to 1891 I was president of the Hawaiian Board of Immigration and had personal knowledge of the conditions under which all Japanese immigrants came to Hawaii; and that I am personally acquainted with the Honolulu agents of the companies, and know from the official records in Honolulu, which I have examined within the last few days, that none of the Japanese immigrants who came to Honolulu during 1896 came under the labor convention, which Mr. Stevens refers to, and which the Hawaiian Government would have had control of them."

"Third, I stated that the late Minister to Washington was a member of one of these immigration companies. 'Mr. Stevens says,' as stated by Mr. Thurston, 'that other Japanese officials have in connection with these companies.' My authority for this statement is an advertisement in the Hawaiian Gazette of November 29, 1896, by the Japan Immigration Company of Osaka, Japan, in which the following statement appears, after the object of the company is set forth: 'Following are the persons who compose the company: Gozo Tathio, ex-Minister to Washington.'"

"I refer also to the records of the Supreme Court of Hawaii in the case of In re application of Masamoto Michio, decided November 18, 1896, in which a member of the company, also its Honolulu manager, both testified under oath that Gozo Tathio, ex-Minister to Washington, was a member of the company. "Fourth, I stated that the Hawaiian Government had passed a law prohibiting any immigrant to land who could not produce \$50, and gave instances of evasion of the law and how it practically failed to keep any of the Japanese out. My authority for this statement is the Hawaiian statute, and the fact that during the year 1896 I was an attorney before the Supreme Court of Hawaii in 47 cases arising out of this law."

A PEACEFUL INVASION. "Fifth, I stated that, under these conditions, a peaceful invasion of Hawaii going on, as a result of which 'within five years from now, if the present rate of Japanese immigration to Hawaii continues, the whole island will be the inhabitants of the entire country.' My authority for this statement is the census of the Hawaiian Islands, showing that: In 1884 the Japanese numbered 116; in 1890 the Japanese numbered 12,000; in 1896 the Japanese numbered 24,407, out of a total population of 106,000. "I further refer to the Custom House statistics of Honolulu for 1896, which show that the number of Japanese who entered Honolulu during 1896, was only 2,928, while during 1895 the number was 6,322, of whom 2,273 came during the last three months."

"Mr. Stevens says that the Japanese Government has nothing to do with this immigration. I did not say that it did. I said that it is the Hawaiian Government in Hawaii that the present extraordinary movement from Japan to Hawaii is part of a system of invasion, with the full approval of the Japanese Government, to gain control of the islands. Whether it is so or not I cannot say. Certainly no more certain method of accomplishing that result can be followed than that which is now going on."

"In support of this statement I refer to the files of the Honolulu papers, which are continually discussing this subject, and to the Honolulu correspondence of the Star, dated February 25 last, published in the Star of the 19th inst.; and to the address issued in Honolulu by royal leaders on February 25 last, in which annexation as the sole salvation from Japanese domination."

"The belief on the facts above set forth, and also upon the knowledge that not long since pressure was brought to bear by the Japanese Government to secure the right to take for Japanese subjects in Hawaii, and that within the year last past a further demand was made that the Hawaiian Government should not allow any more Chinese to enter Hawaii, on the specific ground that would be injurious to Japanese interests."

"Mr. Stevens further states 'it is safe to say that 20 out of every 100 Japanese who go to Hawaii go there in furtherance of agreements for their employment upon the plantations.' 'The foregoing,' Mr. Stevens speaks of his own knowledge his words as good as his bond, but the above statement does not purport to be from knowledge, while the Honolulu Custom House shows that on an average during 1896 only 20 to 25 per cent came under plantation contract. In November last I made personal inquiry of the immigration companies as to what became of the other 80 per cent, and was informed they had no idea that it was none of their business."

"Mr. Stevens states that originally the Hawaiian Government encouraged Japanese immigration. This is correct, but the correctness of such a policy in 1884, with 116 Japanese in the country, is one thing, and in 1897, with over 25,000, is another. As a fact, the Hawaiian Government is now struggling against the immigration, with but indifferent success."

"The foregoing are some of the authorities supporting my facts. Every one can draw his own conclusions. I leave them on February 25 last, feeling against Japanese individually, or as a whole, having many personal friends among them, and in the practice of my profession they are among my best clients. It is with regret that I have felt it my duty to make the statement which Mr. Stevens objects to. My object was and is to bring to the notice of the American people that Western civilization in Hawaii is faced with a condition, which will not change, and in the dealing with which we, as the vanguard, ask their assistance before it is too late."

WAIKIKI ROBBERY

Valuables Taken from the Hobron Cottage.

Sneak Thief Entered Sleeping Apartments—Articles mysteriously Returned.

On Friday last a party of young ladies, of whom Miss Carrie Gilman was one, took possession of the Hobron cottage on the lower Waikiki road intending to spend a short vacation. Matters progressed well and the ladies settled down to the quiet enjoyment of bathing and resting on the lawn.

Saturday evening the ladies entertained some relatives and the time was spent on the lanai about 100 feet from the house. Before going out Miss Gilman removed her watch and placed it on a pin cushion. On a table near by was some fancy work and two kodaks.

On the return of the ladies to the house none of them noticed whether or not the articles were there but when Miss Gilman arose yesterday morning they were missing; nothing else was disturbed. Inquiry was made of the Chinese servant but he denied having been in the room. He stated that he had spent the evening in his cottage on the place. Friends were notified of the loss and detectives put on the track. As there was no clew to the thief, Miss Gilman gave up all hopes of finding them. Last night while the ladies were sitting on the veranda a hackman drove up and handed one of the party a large package and quickly drove off without leaving any message. On opening the package it was found to contain the missing articles. The police will try and find the hackman today.

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